CLAUD ELLIOTT LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

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Approved by:

Dick Heath
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: [illegible]

Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

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CLAUD ELLIOTT LAKE PARK
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Claud Elliott Lake Park is to protect old growth valley bottom forest and wetland habitat. The lakes and wetlands within the park contribute to the Tsitika River system which is ranked among the ten most important fish-bearing streams on Vancouver Island. Fish species found in the park's waterbodies include coho salmon, kokanee, Dolly Varden, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, and steelhead. The Tsitika River system and its associated mature forest habitat is an important flyway and breeding ground for the red-listed marbled murrelet. Claud Elliott Lake Park contains wildlife habitat for deer, elk, black bears, cougars, wolves, and waterfowl. In addition, the park along with Claud Elliott Creek Ecological Reserve serve as important breeding and foraging habitat for a red-listed subspecies of northern goshawk, and a blue-listed subspecies of northern pygmy owl. Two rare blue-listed plants also occur within the park.

As outlined in the Protected Areas Strategy, a goal for the protected areas system is to conserve examples of British Columbia's natural heritage. Although it is small in size, Claud Elliott Lake Park offers protection of the under-represented Coastal Western Hemlock vm1 biogeoclimatic variant and the under-represented Northern Island Mountains Ecosection (NIM). Much of these types of ecosystems have been impacted through forestry and are no longer in their natural state; therefore, any protected area that contributes to their protection may be considered important.

Secondary Role

The **secondary** role is to provide opportunities for recreational fishing and nature appreciation. In meeting the goals to provide destination and local recreation, this park offers lake-based, day use opportunities in a natural setting.

Claud Elliott Lake Park is located north of Woss Camp in northeastern Vancouver Island, thirteen kilometres off Highway 19. It is accessed by a gravel road and is a popular site with local residents and visitors to the North Island for fishing and wildlife viewing. The facilities are minimal with informal group and wilderness campsites and provide the rustic experience sought by outdoor enthusiasts.

Management Issues

Lack of knowledge of natural (especially fish) and cultural values	➢ Undertake an inventory of wildlife, rare and endangered species, key fish species, existing stocks, and habitats. ➢ Conduct a creel census for Claud Elliott and Fickle lakes to monitor fish populations. ➢ Undertake cultural inventory and traditional use study of whole park in conjunction with First Nations.
Adjacent forest development impacts on park resources	➢ Work with Ministry of Forests and logging companies to ensure park values are taken into consideration during forestry development.
Management of recreational sport fishery	➢ Work with the Fish and Wildlife Science and Allocation Section of WLAP and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to monitor fishing pressure, fish

	populations and ensure their viability.
Impacts of recreation on natural values	➢ Determine the use of the park by the holder of the trapping tenure and the guide outfitter. ➢ Provide information shelter with boundary signage, map, directions, and locations of nearby ecological reserves. ➢ Formalize trail, camping area and develop facilities when deemed necessary.
Maintenance of visitor access	➢ Work with Ministry of Forests and Canadian Forest Products to ensure road access to the southwest end of the park is maintained.
Pre-existing uses in the park	➢ Issue Park Use Permits for trapline and Ministry of Forests research plots.

Zoning

Intensive Recreation Zone – covers a small portion of the park to address recreational impacts (approximately 4% of the park). The objective of this zone is to provide a variety of readily accessible, family-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.

Natural Environment Zone – covers the rest of the park (approximately 96% of the park). The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	☒	Contributes minimally (0.55%) to the representation of the Northern Island Mountains Ecosection. This ecosection is under represented in the protected areas system (9.12%).
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☒	Contributes minimally (0.16%) to the representation of CWHvm1 which has only 7.01% protected provincially.
Special Features	☒	Steelhead, deer/elk winter range, wetlands
Rare/Endangered Values	☒	*Red-listed* northern goshawk subspecies (*Accipiter gentilits laingi*) and marbled murrelet. *Blue-listed* Dolly Varden, cutthroat trout, and northern pygmy owl, *swarthi* subspecies. Two *blue-listed* rare plants: purple-leaved willowherb and Menzie's burnet, which thrive in moist habitat and are rare on Vancouver Island and southern BC.
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☒	Marbled murrelet and northern goshawk

Recreation

Representation		
backcountry	☐	Not Applicable
destination	☒	Fishing, wildlife viewing
travel corridor	☐	Not Applicable
local recreation	☒	Fishing and hunting
Special Opportunities	☐	None known at this time
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☐	None known at this time

Cultural Heritage

Representation	☐	Values unknown
Special Feature	☐	None known at this time

Other Management Considerations

Other Designations	☐	Not Applicable
Relationship to other PAs	☒	Part of a system of protected areas in the north end of Vancouver Island
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☐	Not Applicable

Partnerships	☐	Not Applicable
Vulnerability	☒	Small size limits ability to manage for ecological integrity; adjacent forest development may impact visual resources and conservation values
Relationship to other Strategies	☒	Recommended as part of Vancouver Island Land Use Plan

Area: 289.4 hectares

Date of establishment: July 12, 1995

Zoning Map - Claud Elliott Lake Provincial Park

Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83

Intensive Recreation
Natural Environment
Protected Area Boundary

0 1
km

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